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SECOND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA

Alliance for Africa's Industrialization

Report by the Director-General

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Introduction

1. During the sixth session of the General Conference of UNIDO in December 1995 the Director-General announced that the Organization would introduce a new initiative, the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization (AAI), to add impetus to industrial development in Africa. The announcement was followed by extensive consultations (from January to May 1996) in Africa with key intergovernmental and private sector organizations including the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI) and the African Business Round Table. A concept paper for the Alliance was drafted by a team of UNIDO staff and circulated to various entities including the African groups mentioned earlier, and briefings were held in Vienna, Bonn and Geneva for the African Permanent Missions accredited to UNIDO. The concept paper was also presented to the Bureau of CAMI in Pretoria, South Africa in early 1996.

2. The concept was presented to the Industrial Development Board at its fifteenth session in May 1996 and the Board urged the Director-General "to elaborate further on the concept of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization and to submit a report to the sixteenth session of the Board" (IDB.15/Dec.6). Summarized below is an update on efforts made to further elaborate and develop the concept of the Alliance.

I. METHODOLOGY

3. The elaboration of the concept of the Alliance has been based on a systematic process to enable UNIDO to build on its successful programmes in Africa and learn from failures as well. In this regard, high priority is given to four principal issues in order to define a realistic vision for the Alliance.

(a) Completing the on-going review of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa programme and other programmes in Africa. The Alliance must add value to what exists and endeavour to introduce some new dimensions in light of the constantly changing global environment;

(b) Obtaining the intellectual input of Africans and Africanists (including non-African researchers and scholars) into the definition of the goals of the Alliance and its key components, programmes/projects and operational modalities;

(c) Defining mechanisms for African nations to internalize the components of the Alliance into on-going structural reforms and development plans;

(d) Ensuring the financial sustainability of programmes and projects that will constitute the main thrust of the Alliance. The identification and development of such programmes and projects will be demand driven and will also depend on the strong collaboration and support of UNIDO technical units. The development of programmes/projects is envisaged to continue into the first quarter of 1997.

II. INTERNAL UNIDO ACTIVITIES

4. On 12 June 1996, an in-house retreat of some key UNIDO technical staff held in-depth discussions of various components of the Alliance. Two working groups have been set up to carry out follow up actions to finalize the concept paper and to plan the launching of the Alliance in October 1996.

5. A high-level Steering Committee was established in June 1996 to provide overall guidance on UNIDO support for the Alliance and to ensure effective harmonization and coordination with other relevant programmes of UNIDO and cooperating partners of the Alliance. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Director-General to emphasize the high priority UNIDO accords to the AAI.

6. A project document was approved by the Programme and Project Review Committee in July 1996 for funding the preparatory work on the Alliance.

III. AFRICAN INPUT INTO AND OWNERSHIP OF AAI

7. Copies of the revised draft of the AAI concept paper were mailed to various entities in Africa including ministries of industry, regional and subregional organizations and private sector groups. Comments received will be incorporated into the new draft of the concept paper.

8. In mid-June, the Director of the Africa Bureau and his staff held extensive consultations in Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo on the Alliance and strategies for internalization of its components at the country level. One significant outcome of this mission is that private sector groups in Ghana recently held a workshop to discuss this process of internalization. Nigeria is also planning a similar activity. Efforts in other African countries will be encouraged.

9. The Director-General presented the broad goals of the Alliance to the sixty-fourth General Session of the OAU Council of Ministers on 4 July 1996 and held bilateral talks with some delegations about the Alliance

and other UNIDO matters. The OAU adopted a resolution, contained in the annex to the present document, reiterating its support for UNIDO. The resolution strongly endorsed the Alliance and supported its launch in Abidjan, in October 1996, by His Excellency Konan Bedie, President of Côte d'Ivoire.

10. On 1 August 1996, the Director-General sent a letter to the Vienna-based African Permanent Missions accredited to UNIDO providing a detailed update on the progress made in the elaboration of the AAI concept along with a copy of the OAU resolution. The letter was followed up with a full briefing on the AAI on Wednesday, 21 August 1996. In that briefing a detailed presentation was given on the revised concept paper. Copies of the paper were circulated for review and comments. Details of the forthcoming high-level expert group meeting and the launching of the Alliance were also provided to the Permanent Missions. A follow-up meeting with African Permanent Missions is planned for mid-September 1996.

11. From 6 to 8 September 1996, a high-level expert group meeting will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with representatives of the Bureau of CAMI, ECA, OAU, the African Development Bank, the African Business Round Table, private sector representatives and selected experts. The goal is to have in-depth discussions of the revised concept paper and project packages, the scope of the research component of AAI, specific plans for the launching of AAI in Abidjan and strategies for funds mobilization. Several United Nations agencies have also been invited as an initial step towards establishing the institutional and inter-agency partnerships required for the success of AAI; these include the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

IV. INTER-AGENCY ACTIVITIES

12. The Alliance was presented for discussion and consideration in two major inter-agency meetings in Nairobi and Addis Ababa dealing with the United Nations System-Wide Special Initiative on Africa (UNSIA). In April 1996, the UNIDO Country Director (UCD) in Nairobi participated in the fourth meeting of the ACC Steering Committee, and the UCD in Addis Ababa participated in the July meeting of the UNSIA Task Force on Poverty Reduction Through the Promotion of the Informal Sector and Employment Generation Opportunities. UNIDO has been called upon to include a section on informal sector development in the Alliance concept paper as an input into UNSIA. The informal sector component will be discussed in the next meeting of the Task Force in Addis Ababa on 9 September 1996. Further, the Alliance will be on the agenda of the UNSIA Steering Committee meeting in New York on 20 September 1996.

V. LAUNCHING OF THE ALLIANCE

13. Based on the OAU resolution and the request of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, meetings were held on 28 and 29 July 1996 regarding the preparations for the launching of the Alliance. A draft budget and programme was developed and presented to the Government for consideration. In addition to the main event—the launching of AAI—three parallel activities will also take place: the annual meeting of UCDs, the annual meeting of UNIDO Investment Promotion Services and a demonstration of agro-industry technology. African Heads of State and Ministers of Industry will be invited to the launching along with OAU, the Economic Community of West African States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community and other international and regional organizations and industry/private sector representatives.

VI. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

14. The Board may wish to take note of the present report and provide guidance for further action.

Annex

CM/Res.1663 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY OAU

Resolution on the twelfth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the 12th meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Industry and UNIDO General Conference resolution GC.6/Res.11 on the IDDA,

Recalling the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Bearing in mind the Cairo Agenda for Action adopted by the Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers,

Recalling further the Second IDDA adopted by the United Nations General Assembly,

Reiterating OAU Summit resolution AHG/Res.5 (XXXII) of 28 June 1995 supporting UNIDO,

Taking note of the statement by the Director-General of UNIDO to the Council of Ministers especially in respect of the "Alliance for Africa's Industrialization",

Reaffirming the primary responsibilities of the African countries in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade and the need for the mobilization of their own resources and for substantial flow of technical and financial resources from the international community towards the industrialization of Africa:

1. TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION of the Report of the Secretary-General on the 12th Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and on the 6th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO;

2. ENDORSES the Gaborone Declaration and the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its Twelfth meeting;

3. REITERATES ITS FULL SUPPORT to UNIDO and WELCOMES the decisions of the legislative bodies of UNIDO to continue to accord highest priority to Africa and the IDDA;

4. ENDORSES the launching of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization as a dynamic mechanism for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the IDDA and INVITES Africa's development partners and the international community to intensify their cooperation with African governments and private sector industrial enterprises in support of the Alliance;

5. CALLS ON all Member States of the OAU to participate actively in the 13th Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the Second All Africa Private Sector Forum scheduled to be held in Accra in May 1997;

6. INVITES all African States and Africa's development partners to participate actively in the meeting for the launching of the Alliance for Africa's industrialization which will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Henri Konan Bedie, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, in Abidjan in the last quarter of 1996;

7. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the OAU in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Director-General of UNIDO to continue their assistance in the implementation of the programme for the 2nd IDDA and to undertake follow-up actions for the mobilization of resources at national, subregional and regional levels for industrialization in Africa and jointly submit a biennial report on the matter to the OAU Council of Ministers and Summit Conference.